

USSN 09/981,431

Response

Amendments to the Claims

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (currently amended) A cleaning composition for a semiconductive substrate, comprising: effective amounts of a cleaning agent and at least one antimicrobial agent, and the balance solvent.
2. (original) The cleaning composition of Claim 1, wherein the cleaning agent comprises a hydroxycarboxylic acid, a hydroxycarboxylic acid salt, or a mixture thereof.
3. (original) The cleaning composition of Claim 2, wherein the cleaning agent comprises a hydroxycarboxylic acid selected from the group consisting of citric acid, malic acid, tartaric acid, glycolic acid, lactic acid, and tartronic acid.
4. (original) The cleaning composition of Claim 2, wherein the cleaning agent comprises a hydroxycarboxylic acid salt selected from the group consisting of a citric acid salt, malic acid salt, tartaric acid salt, glycolic acid salt, lactic acid salt, and tartronic acid salt.
5. (original) The cleaning composition of Claim 2, wherein the cleaning agent is selected from the group consisting of citric acid and citric acid salts.
6. (original) The cleaning composition of Claim 5, wherein the cleaning agent comprises a citric acid salt selected from the group consisting of ammonium citrate, and a tetraalkylammonium citrate.
7. (original) The cleaning composition of Claim 1, wherein the antimicrobial agent is selected from the group consisting of benzoic acid, sorbic acid, and salts thereof.

USSN 09/981,431

Response

8. (original) The cleaning composition of Claim 7, wherein the antimicrobial agent comprises a benzoic acid salt selected from the group consisting of ammonium benzoate, potassium benzoate, and tetraalkylammonium benzoate.
9. (original) The cleaning composition of Claim 7, wherein the antimicrobial agent comprises a sorbic acid salt selected from the group consisting of ammonium sorbate, potassium sorbate, and tetraalkylammonium sorbate.
10. (original) The cleaning composition of Claim 7, wherein the antimicrobial agent is selected from the group consisting of benzoic acid, sorbic acid, ammonium benzoate, potassium benzoate, tetraalkylammonium benzoate, potassium sorbate, ammonium sorbate, and tetraalkylammonium sorbate.
11. (original) The cleaning composition of Claim 1, wherein the antimicrobial agent comprises a sulfite.
12. (original) The cleaning composition of Claim 11, wherein the antimicrobial agent is selected from the group consisting of sulfur dioxide, potassium bisulfite, and potassium metabisulfite.
13. (original) The cleaning composition of Claim 1, wherein the antimicrobial agent comprises an alkyl parahydroxybenzoate.
14. (original) The cleaning composition of Claim 13, wherein the antimicrobial agent is selected from the group consisting of methylparahydroxybenzoate, ethylparahydroxybenzoate, propylparahydroxybenzoate, and n-heptylparahydroxybenzoate.
15. (original) The cleaning composition of Claim 1, having a pH of about 4.5 to about 6.5.
16. (original) The cleaning composition of Claim 15, further comprising a buffering agent.

USSN 09/981,431

Response

17. (original) The cleaning composition of Claim 16, wherein the buffering agent is selected from the group consisting of ammonium hydroxide, and tetraalkylammonium hydroxide.
18. (currently amended) A cleaning composition for a semiconductor substrate, comprising: a cleaning agent selected from the group consisting of hydroxycarboxylic acids and salts thereof; and at least one antimicrobial agent selected from the group consisting of benzoic acid, sorbic acid, and salts thereof; and the balance water.
19. (original) The cleaning composition of Claim 18, wherein the cleaning agent is selected from the group consisting of citric acid, malic acid, tartaric acid, glycolic acid, lactic acid, tartronic acid, and salts thereof.
20. (original) The cleaning composition of Claim 19, wherein the cleaning agent is selected from the group consisting of citric acid, ammonium citrate, and tetraalkylammonium citrate.
21. (original) The cleaning composition of Claim 18, wherein the antibacterial agent comprises a benzoic acid salt selected from the group consisting of ammonium benzoate, potassium benzoate, and tetraalkylammonium benzoate.
22. (original) The cleaning composition of Claim 18, wherein the antibacterial agent comprises a sorbic acid salt selected from the group consisting of potassium sorbate, ammonium sorbate, and tetraalkylammonium sorbate.
23. (original) The cleaning composition of Claim 18, wherein the solvent is selected from the group consisting of water, and an organic solvent.
24. (original) The cleaning composition of Claim 23, wherein the solvent comprises deionized water.

USSN 09/981,431

Response

25. (original) The cleaning composition of Claim 23, wherein the solvent comprises an organic solvent selected from the group consisting of methanol, ethanol, n-propanol, iso-propanol, n-butanol, t-butanol, sec-butanol, ethylene glycol, and propylene glycol.
26. (original) The cleaning composition of Claim 18, having a pH of about 4.5 to about 6.5.
27. (original) The cleaning composition of Claim 18, wherein the cleaning composition further comprises a pH buffering agent to adjust the pH to about 4 to about 6.
28. (currently amended) A cleaning composition for a semiconductor substrate, comprising: a cleaning agent selected from the group consisting of citric acid and a citric acid salt; and an antimicrobial agent selected from the group consisting of benzoic acid, sorbic acid, and salts thereof; and the balance water.
29. (original) The cleaning composition of Claim 28, wherein the antimicrobial agent comprises a benzoic acid salt selected from the group consisting of ammonium benzoate, potassium benzoate, and tetraalkylammonium benzoate.
30. (original) The cleaning composition of Claim 28, wherein the antimicrobial agent comprises a sorbic acid salt selected from the group consisting of ammonium sorbate, potassium sorbate, tetraalkylammonium sorbate.
31. (currently amended) A cleaning composition for a semiconductor substrate, comprising: a cleaning agent capable of dispersing alumina or silica slurry particles, and supporting microbial growth; and an antimicrobial agent present in an amount effective to inhibit bacterial growth in the cleaning composition and on the surface of the substrate, when the composition is applied thereto; optionally including effective amounts of a surfactant, corrosion inhibitor, chelating agent, oxidizing agent, antioxidant, or a combination thereof; and the balance solvent.

USSN 09/981,431

*Response*

32. (original) The cleaning composition of Claim 31, wherein the cleaning agent comprises a hydroxycarboxylic acid selected from the group consisting of a hydroxycarboxylic acid, and hydroxycarboxylic acid salts.

33. (original) The cleaning composition of Claim 32, wherein the cleaning agent is selected from the group consisting of citric acid, malic acid, tartaric acid, glycolic acid, lactic acid, and tartronic acid.

34. (original) The cleaning composition of Claim 32, wherein the cleaning agent comprises citric acid or a salt thereof.

35. (original) The cleaning composition of Claim 34, wherein the cleaning agent comprises a citric acid salt selected from the group consisting of ammonium citrate, and tetraalkylammonium citrate.

36. (original) The cleaning composition of Claim 35, wherein the cleaning agent comprises tetramethylammonium citrate.

37. (original) The cleaning composition of Claim 31, wherein the antimicrobial agent is selected from the group consisting of benzoic acid, sorbic acid, ammonium benzoate, potassium benzoate, tetraalkylammonium benzoate, ammonium sorbate, potassium sorbate, and tetraalkylammonium sorbate.

38. (original) The cleaning composition of Claim 31, wherein the antimicrobial agent comprises a sulfite.

39. (original) The cleaning composition of Claim 38, wherein the antimicrobial agent is selected from the group consisting of sulfur dioxide, potassium bisulfite, and potassium metabisulfite.

USSN 09/981,431

Response

40. (original) The cleaning composition of Claim 31, wherein the antimicrobial agent comprises an alkyl parahydroxybenzoate.

41. (original) The cleaning composition of Claim 40, wherein the antimicrobial agent is selected from the group consisting of methylparahydroxybenzoate, ethylparahydroxybenzoate, propylparahydroxybenzoate, and n-heptylparahydroxybenzoate.

42. (original) A cleaning composition for a semiconductor surface, comprising an aqueous composition comprising:

- about 0.02 to about 1.5 % by weight cleaning agent;
- about 0.005 to about 0.3 % by weight antimicrobial agent; and
- the balance solvent;

the % by weight based on the total weight of the cleaning composition.

43. (original) The cleaning composition of Claim 42, wherein the cleaning agent is selected from the group consisting of hydroxycarboxylic acids and salts thereof.

44. (original) The cleaning composition of Claim 43, wherein the cleaning agent is selected from the group consisting of citric acid, malic acid, tartaric acid, lactic acid, glycolic acid, tartronic acid, and salts thereof.

45. (original) The cleaning composition of Claim 43, wherein the cleaning agent is selected from the group consisting of citric acid, ammonium citrate, and tetraalkylammonium citrate.

46. (original) The cleaning composition of Claim 42, wherein the antimicrobial agent is selected from the group consisting of benzoic acid, sorbic acid, and salts thereof.

47. (original) The cleaning composition of Claim 42, wherein the antimicrobial agent is selected from the group consisting of benzoic acid, sorbic acid, ammonium benzoate, potassium

USSN 09/981,431

*Response*

benzoate, tetraalkylammonium benzoate, ammonium sorbate, potassium sorbate, and tetraalkylammonium sorbate.

48. (original) The cleaning composition of Claim 42, wherein the antimicrobial agent is selected from the group consisting of a sulfite, and an alkyl parahydroxybenzoate.

49. (original) The cleaning composition of Claim 42, wherein the pH of the composition is about 4.5 to about 6.5.

50. (original) The cleaning composition of Claim 42, comprising:  
about 0.05 to about 0.5 % by weight cleaning agent; and  
about 0.01 to about 0.2 % by weight antimicrobial agent.

51. (original) A cleaning composition for a semiconductor surface, comprising an aqueous mixture comprising:

about 0.02 to about 1.5 % by weight cleaning agent selected from the group consisting of hydroxycarboxylic acids and salts thereof;  
about 0.005 to about 0.3 % by weight of a first antimicrobial agent selected from the group consisting of benzoic acid and salts thereof;  
about 0.005 to about 0.3 % by weight of a second antimicrobial agent selected from the group consisting of sorbic acid and salts thereof; and  
the balance solvent;  
the % by weight based on the total weight of the cleaning composition.

52. (original) A cleaning composition for a semiconductor surface, comprising:  
about 0.02 to about 1.5 % by weight citric acid, citric acid salt, or a mixture thereof;  
about 0.005 to about 0.3 % by weight benzoic acid, benzoic salt, or a mixture thereof;  
about 0.005 to about 0.3 % by weight sorbic acid, sorbic acid salt, or a mixture thereof; and  
the balance solvent;  
the % by weight based on the total weight of the cleaning composition.

USSN 09/981,431

Response

53. (original) The cleaning composition of Claim 52, wherein the solvent comprises deionized water.

54. (original) A cleaning composition for a semiconductor surface, comprising:  
about 0.02 to about 1.5 % by weight of a cleaning agent selected from the group consisting of citric acid, ammonium citrate, and tetraalkylammonium citrate;  
about 0.005 to about 0.3 % by weight of a first antimicrobial agent selected from the group consisting of benzoic acid, potassium benzoate, ammonium benzoate, and tetraalkylammonium benzoate;  
about 0.005 to about 0.3 % by weight of a second microbial agent selected from the group consisting of sorbic acid, potassium sorbate, ammonium sorbate, and tetraalkylammonium sorbate; and  
the balance water;  
the % by weight based on the total weight of the cleaning composition.

55. (currently amended) A cleaning composition for a semiconductor surface, comprising: an acidic aqueous solution comprising a cleaning agent selected from the group consisting of citric acid and citric acid salts; one or more antimicrobial agents selected from the group consisting of a benzoic acid, benzoic acid salts, sorbic acid, and sorbic acid salts; and the balance water.

56. (original) The cleaning composition of Claim 55, wherein the cleaning agent is a selected from the group consisting of citric acid, ammonium citrate, and tetraalkylammonium citrate.

57. (original) The cleaning composition of Claim 55, wherein the antimicrobial agent is selected from the group consisting of benzoic acid, sorbic acid, potassium benzoate, ammonium benzoate, tetraalkylammonium benzoate, potassium sorbate, ammonium sorbate, and tetraalkylammonium sorbate.

USSN 09/981,431

Response

58. (original) The cleaning composition of Claim 55, comprising ammonium citrate, potassium benzoate, and potassium sorbate.

59. (original) The cleaning composition of Claim 55, comprising ammonium citrate, ammonium benzoate, and potassium sorbate.

60. (original) A cleaning composition for a semiconductor surface comprising an acidic aqueous solution comprising: about 0.02 to about 1.5 % by weight citric acid, citric acid salt, or a mixture thereof; about 0.005 to about 0.3 % by weight antimicrobial agent; and the balance water based on the total weight of the cleaning composition; the antimicrobial agent selected from the group consisting of benzoic acid, sorbic acid, potassium benzoate, ammonium benzoate, tetraalkylammonium benzoate, potassium sorbate, ammonium sorbate, tetraalkylammonium sorbate, methylparahydroxybenzoate, ethylparahydroxybenzoate, propylparahydroxybenzoate, and n-heptylparahydroxybenzoate, sulfur dioxide, potassium bisulfite, and potassium metabisulfite.

61. (original) The cleaning composition of Claim 60, wherein the composition has a pH of about 4.5 to about 6.5.

62. (original) A cleaning composition for cleaning a planarized or polished surface of a semiconductor wafer, the composition comprising: a mixture of a cleaning agent, an antimicrobial agent, and solvent in amounts relative to one another such that microbial growth within the cleaning composition is inhibited, and when the composition is in contact with both a metal conductive structure and a dielectric layer, residual particles are removed therefrom with no significant defects to the conductive structure or the dielectric layer, and microbial deposition on the planarized or polished surface is inhibited.

USSN 09/981,431

*Response*

63. (original) The cleaning composition of Claim 62, comprising about 0.02 % to about 1.5 % of a cleaning agent comprising a hydroxycarboxylic acid, a hydroxycarboxylic acid salt, or a mixture thereof.

64. (original) The cleaning composition of Claim 63, wherein the cleaning agent comprises citric acid, citric acid salt, or a mixture thereof.

65. (original) The cleaning composition of Claim 62, comprising about 0.005 % to about 0.3 % antimicrobial agent.

66. (original) The cleaning composition of Claim 62, wherein the antimicrobial agent is selected from the group consisting of benzoic acid, sorbic acid, potassium benzoate, ammonium benzoate, tetraalkylammonium benzoate, potassium sorbate, ammonium sorbate, tetraalkylammonium sorbate, benzoic acid, sorbic acid, ammonium benzoate, potassium benzoate, tetraalkylammonium benzoate, ammonium sorbate, potassium sorbate, and tetraalkylammonium sorbate.

67. (original) The cleaning composition of Claim 62, wherein the antimicrobial agent is selected from the group consisting of a sulfite, and an alkyl parahydroxybenzoate.

68. (original) The cleaning composition of Claim 67, wherein the antimicrobial agent is selected from the group consisting of sulfur dioxide, potassium bisulfite, and potassium metabisulfite.

69. (original) The cleaning composition of Claim 67, wherein the antimicrobial agent is selected from the group consisting of methylparahydroxybenzoate, ethylparahydroxybenzoate, propylparahydroxybenzoate, and n-heptylparahydroxybenzoate.

70. (original) The cleaning composition of Claim 62, wherein the solvent comprises water, an organic solvent, or a mixture thereof.

USSN 09/981,431

Response

71. (original) The cleaning composition of Claim 62, wherein the solvent comprises deionized water.

72. (original) The cleaning composition of Claim 62, having a pH of between about 4.5 and about 6.5.

73. (original) The cleaning composition of Claim 62, having a pH of between about 5 and about 6.

74. (original) The cleaning composition of Claim 62, wherein the metal conductive structure comprises a metal selected from the group consisting of copper, aluminum, silver, tungsten, platinum, titanium, and tantalum.

75. (original) The cleaning composition of Claim 62, wherein the dielectric layer comprises a dielectric material selected from the group consisting of silicon dioxide, phosphosilicate glass, borosilicate glass, borophosphosilicate glass, carbon-doped silica, and porous silica.

76. (original) The cleaning composition of Claim 62, wherein the residual particles comprise metal particles.

77. (original) The cleaning composition of Claim 76, wherein the metal particles are selected from the group consisting of copper, aluminum, platinum, titanium, silver, tungsten, and tantalum particles.

78. (original) The cleaning composition of Claim 62, wherein the residual particles comprise abrasive slurry particles.

USSN 09/981,431

*Response*

79. (original) The cleaning composition of Claim 78, wherein the abrasive slurry particles are selected from the group consisting of aluminum oxide, titanium dioxide, silicon dioxide, cerium dioxide, and mixtures thereof.

80-138. (canceled)

139. (new) A cleaning composition for a semiconductive substrate, comprising: effective amounts of a cleaning agent and at least one antimicrobial agent, optionally including effective amounts of a surfactant, corrosion inhibitor, chelating agent, oxidizing agent, antioxidant, or a combination thereof; and the balance solvent.

140. (new) A cleaning composition for a semiconductive substrate, comprising: effective amounts of a cleaning agent and at least one antimicrobial agent, optionally including effective amounts of a surfactant, corrosion inhibitor, chelating agent, oxidizing agent, antioxidant, or a combination thereof; and the balance water.